

Remarks of Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn  
Federal Communications Commission  
African Immigrants Heritage Month  
September 29, 2014

Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

I appreciate the opportunity to welcome you to the FCC as you gather to celebrate African Immigrants Heritage Month.

You know, this year's celebration comes at a time of great historical significance with respect to the continent of Africa and its relations with the United States.

Earlier this year, President Obama convened the first Africa-U.S. Summit, where over 50 heads of state gathered to discuss economic, social and policy issues affecting their nations and the region.

According to all reliable statistics, the continent of Africa is one of the fastest growing regions, both in terms of consumer consumption, economic markets, investment and real development.

And even with the security and humanitarian challenges that dominate the news coming from Africa, there is an amazingly positive story to tell.

When I look at the communications landscape, Africa represents an American dream. Among the many nations, there is a young consumer population that has grown up with wireless devices and a yearning for connectivity to the world.

There is a thriving entrepreneurial spirit that is driving innovation and new products.

And we cannot forget that the continent also produces much of the raw material that makes communication and computer hardware devices actually operate.

I have been to several countries on the continent, but not nearly enough. So I am looking forward to even more opportunities to travel and learn firsthand about the communications environment in the various regions there. Of course, our international experts here at the FCC are deeply involved in regional, bilateral and multilateral forums where they exchange information, views and expertise with their international counterparts.

So, as you gather today, I encourage you to think expansively, think creatively, and think globally. The world is small, and the world is flat. Through technology, we are all just a click or push away from sharing experiences, relationships, trade, commerce and culture.

I thank you for being here today, and I hope you have a productive conference.